Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Friday 05 Jan 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 06 Jan 2024

Forecast Issued on Friday 05 Jan 2024 at 02:22

Confidence: Generally high, lower for fog detail over the weekend.

Headline for Friday 05 Jan 2024: Bright spells and wintry showers.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 05 Jan 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Sleet	Sleet	Cloudy	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability					
30%	50%	60%	40%	20%	20%

Forecast for Friday 05 Jan 2024

Weather: Some bright spells, but often rather cloudy with wintry showers. Cloud clearing during the evening to leave prolonged clear spells overnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% reducing to 40% during the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken cloud base 500-800m through the day. Visibility moderate or poor in showers, very poor in hill fog, otherwise good.

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Forecast for Friday 05 Jan 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	16/18 N	11/12 NW	14/18 NW	19/24 NW	22/27 N	21/26 N	19/23 N
600	11/15 NW	9/12 NW	11/14 NW	16/21 NW	16/21 NW	13/19 NW	12/18 NW
300	5/14 NW	5/12 NW	6/14 NW	8/19 NW	7/19 N	6/17 N	4/16 NW
Valley	4/13 NW	3/10 NW	5/13 NW	6/17 NW	7/19 NW	8/19 NW	7/18 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-4	1/-4	0/-5	0/-6	-1/-7	-1/-8	-1/-8
600	3/-2	3/-1	2/-2	2/-3	1/-4	0/-4	-0/-5
300	4/2	4/2	5/2	4/1	3/0	2/-0	2/-0
Valley	6/5	6/5	7/5	6/4	6/3	5/2	4/2
Freezing Level*	1000m	1000m	1000m	900m	800m	800m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling cold at height, be prepared with appropriate layers.

Forecast for Saturday 06 Jan 2024

Weather: Largely clear skies overnight into Saturday leading to some fog patches forming in valleys. Sunny through much of the day with light winds but fog risk again increasing into the evening.

Maximum wind: Northerly 5-10 mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90%

Low cloud and visibility: Overnight mist or fog patches leading to poor visibility at times, otherwise good.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1 to plus 4 Celsius
At 800m: Minus 2 to zero Celsius
Freezing level: 600-800m

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Ground Conditions SupplementDate: Thursday 4 January 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:30 Full report: Ground conditions on Thursday were incredibly similar to Wednesday albeit with slightly less snow as there has been a noticeable thaw especially below 900m. That said the majority of the Lakeland fells and paths up to, and including, summit level are clear of snow and ice. The remaining snow lies above 800m, with the vast majority above 900m, in sheltered spots and hollows and especially on steep north and east facing slopes. Where undisturbed, the snow was soft and slowly thawing. However, on some popular routes it has been compacted into hard snow and ice creating treacherous conditions especially on steep and exposed terrain such as on the Helvellyn edges. The crests of both Striding and Swirral Edges consist of bare, wet, greasy rock. Their exits onto the summit plateau, however, are covered with unavoidable snow some of which, especially on Swirral edge, had been compacted. The current forecast is for temperatures to drop overnight which could cause any soft snow to freeze. Thus, although they are only short sections, any walkers attempting the Helvellyn edges on Friday are strongly recommended to carry an ice axe and crampons or microspikes to safely negotiate the snow especially in descent. Where these snow banks are located are not places to slide without the means to stop yourself. The summit plateau was mostly bare, wet ground; however there were also patches of mainly soft snow with some harder snow and ice where it has been compacted. At 12:30, it was snowing on the summit although at that time, it was not settling. Further showers are forecast which could also fall as snow above c800m so walkers out on the highest peaks on Friday should expect, and be prepared, to encounter more snow and ice (should the temperature drop) than described here. Small, weak cornices have formed above steep north and east facing slopes – most noticeably above Helvellyn’s east face. There were boot and paw prints in this snow. The cornices are so weak that even a dog could cause them to collapse so please keep your canine friends away from the edge and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the mild valley temperatures, the summit temperature was not far off zero - plus 1 degree C - with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) below at minus 5 degrees C just after midday. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. As mentioned, there is the possibility of more hard snow and ice forming at altitude overnight, so walkers out on the highest peaks on Thursday should consider adding microspikes to their rucksacks. Temperature: plus 1.4 C, Maximum wind speed 15.7 mph, Wind chill: minus 5.0 C, Average wind speed: 13.3 mph

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